

(Washington, DC)— Congresswoman Gwen Moore (D-Wisc.) today commented on the historic health care reform legislation that was jointly released by the House committees on Education and Labor, Energy and Commerce, and Ways and Means. Markups of the legislation are expected to begin later this week, as the House of Representatives works toward President Obama's goal of passing a health care reform bill.

"This is a moment of truth for Democrats to come together around Americans' cry for relief from the burdens of a lack of affordable health care. I think it was a brilliant move by President Obama to not bring a finished plan down to the Members of Congress, but to allow us to engage in this historic debate, which will have an impact far beyond all of our lifetimes. While three committees were working on the bill, leadership also took the questions and criticisms from the caucuses, including the Congressional Black Caucus, the Blue Dogs, the Progressive Caucus, the Latino Caucus, the Asian Caucus and many others.

"Right now in Wisconsin, 230 people are losing their health care every day. The growing cost of health care is one of the biggest drags on our nation's economy. The enormous cost of health care can also cost you your life if you can't afford insurance or can't get it because of preexisting conditions. We cannot put our heads in the sand and ignore the tremendous challenges that are facing us. We cannot ignore the problems of our health care system, or 47 million uninsured Americans. Making certain that Americans can access quality and affordable health care is necessary for the survival of our economy."

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